

17 December 1981

Repts to
for 2001

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File 25X1

EO/DDSg1
Room 6E45 Hqs.

For the report to the DDCI.

DD/FBIS

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Key

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JDC:fga/ext. (17Dec 81)

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Distribution:

- Orig. - Addressee, w/att
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~~SECRET~~FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICEPolish Coverage

1. Collection:

FBIS coverage of Polish radio broadcasts and press agency transmissions is being done primarily at London where the BBC has six Polish monitors working round-the-clock in handling the central Polish broadcasts. BBC is prepared to increase the number of monitors to 12 as the situation develops. In addition, two BBC monitors in Berlin listen to the audio of Warsaw television, and FBIS has three Polish monitors on duty at its Austrian Bureau in Vienna to watch mediumwave transmissions. ☐

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Currently Poland is broadcasting one central radio and one central television transmission, having banned all regional and other national network programs. Radio Warsaw's international service in various languages is also off the air. The Polish News Agency (PAP) has ceased transmissions in English and Russian; only PAP in Polish is disseminated, an internal transmission not audible to FBIS or BBC. ☐

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The Warsaw domestic service carries news bulletins each hour, from 10 to 30 minutes each. Newscasts include news, commentaries, press articles, interviews with soldiers and ordinary citizens, and communiques of the Military Council. Warsaw television is carrying normal programming with some news programs lasting as long as 70 minutes. ☐

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In accordance with the Polish Government's restrictions, publications in Poland are currently limited to two Warsaw organs, the dailies TRYBUNA LUDU (the Party paper) and ZILNIERZ WOLNDSCI (the military paper), and 16 regional papers. Due to mail disruptions, however, the FBIS Austrian Bureau has not received any of these papers since 11 December. It's expected that the normal supply of 235 central and provincial newspapers, including Solidarity publications, received at Headquarters will be similarly disrupted, although some publications are likely to be available through the Embassy. ☐

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FBIS is also devoting considerable monitoring capability to East European and Soviet reaction to developments as well as foreign press agency dispatches from Poland which provides newsmen's insights into current developments. ☐

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2. Retasking:

The FBIS Production Group has six language officers operating in Polish. Two of these linguists are on standby for TDY, prepared to augment FBIS' field coverage as necessary. Two German staff linguists are also on standby for duty at the BBC Monitoring Service where they could release German/Polish monitors for Polish coverage. As the situation develops, FBIS and its BBC counterparts are prepared to take whatever personnel actions are necessary to cover radio, television, press agency, and press materials available. Contingency plans have long been prepared. Monitors will also be on the lookout for dissident broadcasts in Poland, in the event some regional radio is taken over by anti-regime elements. ☐

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3. Products:

The FBIS Wire Service is carrying reports on a 24-hour basis concerning the developing situation, with periodic analysis pieces prepared by FBIS media analysts. The FBIS Daily Report is also publishing all significant reports on the Polish situation; the Eastern Europe Daily Report of Monday, 14 December, for example, carried 58 pages of material dealing with Government statements and decrees and internal Polish developments. ☐

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4. Assessment:

FBIS reporting on the situation in Poland is providing a broad spectrum of information on the developing situation. In addition to an FBIS Analysis Note which pointed out on 11 December that a sharply-worded TASS item 'might be the opening shot in a new Soviet campaign to force Polish authorities to crack down on Solidarity,' the FBIS Wire Service was able to provide the Intelligence Community with prompt reporting on the declaration of martial law, the Jaruzelski speech, Polish Government statements, decrees, and developments carried in Polish broadcasts. At the same time, press agency dispatches such as those of the French news agency AFP have provided reports and rumors of developments not available elsewhere. ☐

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Second only to reports on internal Polish developments, FBIS monitors have been able to keep tab on the reactions of Radio Moscow and the Soviet leadership. ☐

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The Austrian Bureau has also reported heavily from the media of Eastern Europe as those nations observed the developments in Poland. Radio Budapest, for example, reported the arrest of 250 persons in Warsaw. ☐

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FBIS media analysts have noted, among other aspects, the sensitivity of the Moscow and Polish media concerning the apparent absence of a role by the Polish ruling party in the imposition of martial law and ensuing actions by the regime. ☐

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Golan Annexation

FBIS analysts furnished the State Department with selected materials from Damascus media concerning statements by President Asad. The Israeli Government had used statements attributed to Asad in justifying the annexation of the Golan Heights; FBIS information on what Asad had actually said was requested for Deputy Assistant Secretary Draper's testimony before Congress on 15 December, and was also used by Assistant Secretary Veliotis in briefing Secretary Haig. ☐

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EOB Project

Arabic language officer ☐ will be working at the Executive Office Building 16-27 December on a special tape project at the request of ☐ ☐

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